



Date: 25.03.2020

To
Shri. Narendra Modi Ji
Honorable Prime Minister of India

Dear Sir,

Sub: Government & Private hospitals in the fight against COVID-19 Pandemic.

AHPI represents the majority of private hospitals in the country, and appreciates the gesture of the Government of India for the opportunity to participate in the meeting chaired by the Honorable Prime Minister of India Shri. Narendra Modiji yesterday.

The decision taken by the Government of India in combating COVID-19 is being appreciated by the World Health Organization and AHPI pledges its total support of its member hospital's in this endeavor.

It is praise worthy that the Government of Karnataka has taken the lead in this direction to effectively rope in the services of the private sector from the stage of planning (both infrastructure and technical) and implementation of the plan that is in progress. AHPI is actively engaged in this exercise.

Based on our experience following are our suggestions;

1. We need to quickly set up dedicated COVID hospitals with ICU beds and ventilators in each city and districts. For example at Bangalore a dedicated 1500 bedded Government hospital with ICUs and Oxygen lines to manage COVID-19 patients, with all necessary emergency facility is in the process of getting ready. Private hospitals, facilities from armed forces, ESI, and PSUs should also be considered. Private hospitals can also offer personnel and equipment such as ventilators to the public centers cited above to tide over the crisis.
2. Setting up of fever clinics (screening and triaging to take place) at all strategic points in association with private hospital and to be jointly managed.
3. Adequate number of COVID-19 testing centers are required all over the country. Include agencies like IISC and NCBS who have capacity to do large number of tests at subsidized rates.
4. Central Government to ensure uninterrupted supply of masks, PPE at MRP and other required COVID specific medicine and equipment. This is crucial.
5. MCI to change regulation –
 - a) To permit online consultation and telemedicine.
 - b) PG students who are waiting for final clinical exams to be declared board eligible
 - c) Foreign medical graduates to be given temporary license to practice.
 - d) MCI Council to also permit final NBE/MCI post graduate students and final year MBBS to be available as human resources, which will be desperately needed.
 - e) Non clinical professionals also to be roped in.
6. Online training of all medical personnel (including those mentioned above) to man the emergency and ICU and in other identified areas.



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7. Security and stigmatization of hospital staff is becoming a major issue, as was mentioned repeatedly yesterday, and needs to be tackled urgently.
8. The hospitals are facing this unexpected crisis of unprecedented magnitude. As mentioned yesterday, there is immense financial stress and strain on the hospital setup. Therefore we sincerely request the Government to offer financial relief to the hospitals in whatever manner possible, to safeguard the health of the people of our country.

Private hospitals remain committed to provide all the support to government and community in the fight against COVID-19. We are with the Government led by you as we prepare for the worst and pray for the best.

Thanking You

Dr. Girdhar J Gyani
Director General, AHPI

Dr. Alex Thomas
President, AHPI

- Copy to:
1. Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, GOI
 2. Ms. Preeti Sudan, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GOI
 3. Shri. Arun Singhal, Special Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GOI
 4. Shri. Lav Agarwal, Joint secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GOI
 5. Mr. Rajeev Topne, Private Secretary Office of Prime Minister
 6. Mr. VP Joy, Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat, GOI
 7. Dr. Vinod Paul, Member, NITI Aayog

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